

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, and 12 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claim 1 and 5-7 are amended; no claim is cancelled; and no claim is added herewith. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 7, lines 3-7, at page 8, lines 10-16, at page 13, lines 8-13, at page 15, lines 1-4, at page 17, line 15 to page 18, line 7, in Figures 1-3, in original Claim 2 and in previously presented Claims 1 and 4-8. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was objected to; Claims 1-2 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 1-2, 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Ishiguro (U.S. Patent No. 5,871,441, hereinafter “Ishiguro”).

Applicant appreciates the Examiner indicating allowable subject matter in Claim 6. Accordingly, Claim 6 is rewritten in independent form to incorporate the features of Claims 1 and 4-5. Thus, it is respectfully requested that Claim 6 be allowed.

In response to the objection to Claim 1, the claim has been amended to consistently recite a “second fluid conduit.” Accordingly, no further objection on that basis is anticipated and it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claim 1 be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-2 and 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is noted that Claim 1 has been amended to recite the “second fluid conduit being inclined with respect to a longitudinal axis of said axial receptacle bore.” Support can be found in the original specification, for example, in Figure 3.

In response to the rejection of Claims 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is noted that Claim 5 and 7 have been amended to remove the objected term “Luer-Lok” which according to the Office Action is a trademark or trade name.¹ Applicant identified alternative generic terminology for a Luer Lok consistent with a fitting having two tapered mating surfaces. As such, Claims 5 and 7 have been amended to include more generic language. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are definite, and no further rejection on that basis is anticipated. However, if Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-2, 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), based on Ishiguro, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection and traverses this rejection, as discussed below.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites, in part, “a fluid supply adaptor having an axially extended fluid supply passage to be attached to a fluid feed member to feed a fluid under pressure to said first fluid conduit, a tip end thereof being opened toward said first connection port and being adapted to be inserted into said mouth piece to block a fluid flow from said second fluid conduit to said first fluid conduit and to feed a fluid from said fluid supply passage to said first fluid conduit.”

According to the original specification, the endoscopic fluid supply conduit system has a first fluid conduit from an injection port which is opened at a rigid tip end portion of an insertion tube. The first fluid conduit is brought at any time into communication with a fluid feed port consisting of a receptacle bore. The receptacle bore is formed in a mouth piece which is fixedly fitted in a fluid feed port of a casing of a manipulating head assembly. Further, a second fluid conduit is also connected to the receptacle bore of the mouthpiece.

¹ See Office Action, page 3, lines 9-12.

The mouth piece constitutes a fluid supply channel selector means to select for supplying a fluid from two different sources toward the first fluid conduit in association with two members. Thus, fluid can be supplied alternatively from those different sources. One member is a fluid supply adapter to be inserted into the receptacle bore of the mouth piece, and the other member is a plug member to be fitted onto an outer open end of the receptacle bore.

It is respectfully submitted that Ishiguro does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1.

Ishiguro describes an endoscope having a channel switching device for use in switching over a suction channel. The endoscope includes a suction valve having a suction opening 34 at the distal end of an insertional part 4 and the suction opening 34 is communicated with an upstream suction channel 29, the proximal end thereof being connected to a suction device 1 installed in an operation unit 5.² The suction device 1 consists of a cylinder unit 35 having a cylinder body 81 and a valve unit 34 having a piston assembly 38 slidably inserted into the cylinder body 81.³ The suction device 1 normally keeps that proximal end of the upstream suction channel 29 closed by the outer periphery of a piston 51 of the piston assembly 38 by the function of a return spring 49. When a button is pushed down against the return spring 49, the upstream suction channel 29 is brought into communication with the suction pump 32 by way of a downstream channel 83, and a vertical channel 59 and an orthogonal channel both provided in the piston 51.⁴

However, it is respectfully submitted that Ishiguro does not disclose or suggest “a fluid supply adaptor having an axially extended fluid supply passage to be attached to a fluid feed member to feed a fluid under pressure to said first fluid conduit, a tip end thereof being

² See Ishiguro, for example, in Figure 3.

³ See Ishiguro, for example, in Figure 1.

⁴ See Ishiguro, for example, in Figure 23.

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opened toward said first connection port and being adapted to be inserted into said mouth piece to *block a fluid flow from said second fluid conduit* to said first fluid conduit and *to feed a fluid from said fluid supply passage* to said first fluid conduit," as recited in Claim 1.

Instead, Ishiguro describes the suction device 1 consisting of the piston 51 slidably inserted into the cylinder body 81 works as a supply shut-off valve for the passage between the suction opening 34 and the suction pump 32. Thus, fluid is only supplied in Ishiguro from a single supply source. Ishiguro does not teach or disclose fluid being alternatively supplied from different sources.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Ishiguro does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 1, and all claims dependent thereon, as anticipated by Ishiguro be withdrawn.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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